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Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE
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February 13, 1985
NUMBER 6010.3

ASD(HA)

SUBJECT: Uniformed Services Health Benefits Committee

- References:
- (a) Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 55
 - (b) DoD Directive 5136.1, "Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)," October 5, 1984
 - (c) DoD Directive 5136.8, "DoD Health Council," July 8, 1982

A. PURPOSE

This Directive:

1. Under references (a) and (b), establishes the Uniformed Services Health Benefits Committee (USHBC) as a forum for discussion of policy issues affecting the delivery of health care benefits in the Uniformed Services health care system and as an advisory body to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).
2. Delineates organization and management, establishes policy, defines functions, and assigns responsibilities.

B. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, the Coast Guard by agreement with the Department of Transportation, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service by agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by agreement with the Department of Commerce, and the Veterans Administration (VA) (hereafter referred to collectively as the "Uniformed Services and Veterans Administration").

C. POLICY

It is DoD policy to evaluate continually the delivery of health care benefits in the Uniformed Services health care system and to seek the advice of the Uniformed Services, which provide care under this system. The USHBC provides a forum for consultation, discussion, and advice and facilitates coordination among the organizations represented by the USHBC members on DoD health benefits matters.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (ASD(HA)) shall:
 - a. Keep the Secretary of Defense advised on any issues of unusual importance that come before the USHBC.

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b. Provide a channel of information, including a summary of agenda items, to the DoD Health Council (DHC) (see DoD Directive 5136.8, reference (c)) on matters within the scope of the DHC charter.

2. The Uniformed Services and Veterans Administration shall:

a. Provide appropriate members to the USHBC.

b. Program any costs associated with attendance of their representatives at meetings.

E. FUNCTIONS

The USHBC shall meet to:

1. Consider questions of policy and make recommendations with respect to benefits provided in the Uniformed Services health care system.

2. Facilitate exchange of information between the Office of the ASD(HA) and the organizations represented by the USHBC.

F. ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. The USHBC shall be composed of the ASD(HA), or designee, as chair and:

a. One representative each from the Offices of the Assistant Secretaries of Defense (Manpower) and (Reserve Affairs); Offices of the Secretaries of the Military Departments; the Headquarters of the Marine Corps, NOAA, and the VA.

b. Two representatives (one medical and one personnel) from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Public Health Service.

c. The Director, Office of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (OCHAMPUS).

2. The USHBC shall meet regularly at the call of the chair.

3. The chair shall designate task force working groups to consider the evaluation of specific issues. Composition of these working groups will include representatives from the USHBC members and, when considered appropriate by the chair, from federal agencies outside of the organizations represented on the USHBC. Once recommendations are developed, the working group shall be disbanded and oversight of the implementation of approved recommendations shall become the responsibility of the ASD(HA) and the Uniformed Services.

4. The ASD(HA) shall act on the recommendations of the USHBC and give members timely notification of decisions.

G. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward two copies of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) within 60 days.

William H. Taft, IV

William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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